

Commission on the Status of Men

Minutes – March 27 2009, 1 – 3:30 PM
Legislative Office Building Room 206 - Concord, NH

Mike Geanoulis took minutes in Secretary Colby's absence

1. Call to Order/Introduction of the Commissioners – Commission Chair Joe Mastromarino called the meeting to order at 1:10. In attendance: Mike Geanoulis, David Lauren, and Cam Sinclair were in attendance. Larry Colby and Scott Meyer were absent. Others in attendance: John-Michael Dumais, Parent Information & Resource Center (PIRC), Grace Mattern, director of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV), Richard Smaglick (Fathers & Husbands), and Ed Farley
2. The agenda was adopted
3. February Minutes were approved unanimously
4. There was no Treasurer's report. Chair Mastromarino said he received a \$50 donation from one Howard Bailey who also gave us a written summary of a very difficult experience in divorce court entitled "The New Hampshire Divorce Mafia."
5. Grace Mattern submitted the report, "Violence Against Men in New Hampshire," and testified that men and boys suffer from domestic and sexual violence as well. Mr. Geanoulis expressed regret that it was not immediately obvious from the report that the safety record for children was better with involved and caring natural mothers and fathers, and that the sexual and physical abuse rates for children are higher where the father is not involved. The report can be seen at: <http://www.nhcadsv.org/Maureen/VAM%20Report%20Final.pdf>. Commissioner Geanoulis expressed concern about <http://www.safe-nh.org/> and Director Lee Newman's failed attempt to obtain an application for membership on the NHCADSV. Ms. Mattern explained that Mr. Newman withdrew his request for an application for reasons that only Mr. Newman should explain
6. Mr. Dumais thanked the NHCSM for its part in helping to make the PIRC conference a success and will keep in touch going forward with the goal of working together to obtain higher levels of father involvement in the education of their children. It was generally agreed that TV and radio should be pursued in promotional for father involvement.

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7. Mr. Smaglick submitted a compelling paper on the importance of children to have caring and involved fathers in children's lives. Commissioner Geanoulis moved to have the link, http://www.fatherhood.org/father_factor.asp installed on the CSM website at <http://www.nh.gov/csm/resources.html> under the heading, "Fatherhood" and to change the heading to, "The Importance of Fathers." Commissioner Geanoulis 2nd and the motion passed 3 to 1. David Lauren who voted no, wanted to defer the vote until the next meeting because Scott Meyer had indicated an interest in reviewing the website. Commissioner Lauren made it clear that his 'no' vote was not against linking the website but rather to review it again and to allow Commissioner Meyer the same opportunity
8. Ed Farley presented a request for help with his inability to get complaints properly reviewed by authorities and a way to redress perjury--especially when it causes improperly based decisions in court.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Geanoulis